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## The Women of France to their English Sisters.

The Women's International Disarmament League of France, recently formed, has sent the following letter in reply to one addressed by English women to their French sisters in 1895. For the translation we are indebted to "*War or Brotherhood?*"

"As members of a Women's League which has for its object the destruction of international hatreds and the promotion of good feeling between different races and peoples, we hasten to reply to your address, cordially extending to you the hand of friendship. We learn from those who have visited your country that the feeling of the English *nation* towards the French *nation* is friendly and sympathetic. One evidence of this is the brotherly welcome accorded to the sixty thousand French work people who find employment in London. On special occasions, too, the sympathy of English people has often been manifested; as in 1871, when the city of London hastened to supply the city of Paris with provisions, on the raising of the siege. Another example was furnished by the self-sacrificing labors of an English lady, Miss de Broen, who during the last struggles of the Commune, earned the name of the 'Mother of Belleville' by her work of mercy in one of the poorest quarters of Paris. Continuing to devote her life and her fortune to the help of the suffering people there, she received unbounded gratitude in return.

Do not such facts indicate the possibility of making friendly international relations general, through a sense of our common brotherhood realized in acts of kindness?

The desire among the nations for increased mutual comprehension and sympathy is one of the forces making for civilization and moral progress. The same need is operative on the material plane. England is by far the most important customer of France, purchasing goods there to the extent of 32 per cent. of her entire trade. It may therefore be imagined what a calamity war between the two nations would be, from the commercial as well as political standpoint. Such a war would mean a general collapse which would retard progress for a century. It is a matter for congratulation that there are no questions at issue between us too serious to be arranged by arbitration.

As messengers of peace and friendship between the women of our respective countries, we will fulfil our part in the grand work of promoting international goodwill, with all the ardor, the devotion and the love which are needed to make our work living and fruitful, and effectual for the promotion of peace and brotherly kindness."

The letter is signed by the president of the League, the Princess Wiszniewska, by the vice-presidents, Madame Flammariion and Madame Chéliga, and by a number of other prominent French women who are members of the League.

At the meeting of the Universal Peace Union in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on the 22d. of February, Judge William N. Ashman, in a very able speech appropriate to the present

disturbed times argued that the Government in relying upon its navy is leaning upon a broken reed, because it is admitted by the highest authority that it is the merest experiment, as is the whole modern science of naval warfare. No one can say that the sailor in one of the modern men-of-war is not in more peril from the dangers that come from within his ship than from those that come from the enemy. All conditions of war have so changed that no one can tell what the results of a war are likely to be. "War is so near the end of its reign," he said, "that all its conditions have changed, and we are coming to a position where war must cease," though he said that there were evils from which the country had more to fear than from war, such as sectional hatred, the evil influence of vast and ill-gotten fortunes and trust and corporation greed.

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